

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00352 251757Z

47

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AECE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 NSCE-00 AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04 L-01

NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 /068 W

----- 125370

O R 251655Z OCT 74

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0539

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0352

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS
OF OCTOBER 23, 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT AN ALL-DAY OCTOBER 23 MEETING,
CHAired BY NETHERLANDS REP (DE VOS) , THE AD HOC GROUP
(AHG) HEARD REPORTS ON BILATERALS WITH CZECHOSLOVAK,
SOVIET, AND ROMANIAN REPS, APPROVED THE DRAFT
WESTERN STATEMENT FOR THE OCTOBER 24 PLENARY SESSION,
DISCUSSED AND APPROVED A DRAFT SPECIAL REPORT TO THE NAC
GIVING THE GROUP'S PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE EAST'S
OCTOBER 15 "FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL" (TEXT BY
SEPTTEL), DISCUSSED THE OCTOBER 22 INFORMAL SESSION,

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00352 251757Z

AND REVIEWED THE DRAFT SPEAKING NOTES FOR USE BY THE

LUXEMBOURG REP (WINTER) IN THE OCTOBER 25 REPORT OF AHG REPS TO THE NAC ON DEVELOPMENTS TO-DATE IN THE FOURTH ROUND.

2. IN THE BILATERALS, CZECHOSLOVAK REP TOLD CANADIAN REP THAT DURATION OF REDUCTION PERIOD, SIZE OF REDUCTIONS AND ALL OTHER ASPECTS OF THE EAST'S RECENTLY TABLED "INITIAL REDUCTION STEP" PROPOSAL WERE NEGOTIABLE. CZECH REP ADDED THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED ON IT WITHIN TWO TO THREE MONTHS, AND URGED THE WEST TO MAKE COUNTER PROPOSALS ON SPECIFICS, BUT IN CONTEXT OF EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL. CONVERSATION OF NETHERLANDS REP WITH SOVIET REP CONTAINED NOTHING NEW. ROMANIAN REP EXPRESSED WISH TO DE VOS FOR WESTERN RESUMPTION OF PERIODIC BRIEFINGS ON INFORMAL MEETINGS, AND GROUP ASKED BELGIAN REP TO BRIEF ROMANIAN ON STRICTLY FACTUAL BASIS AND WITHOUT PROVIDING ALLIED EVALUATIONS; INTERVALS BETWEEN BRIEFINGS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ABOUT ONE PER MONTH.

3. THERE WAS AGREEMENT IN GROUP THAT OCT 22 INFORMAL HAD BROKEN NO NEW GROUND AND THAT EAST HAD BEEN SURPRISED BY TOUGH NEGATIVE WESTERN REACTION TO FIRST STEP REDUCTION PROPOSAL. UK REP NOTED THAT SOVIET REP (KHLESTOV) HAD AVOIDED TOTALLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO UK COMMENT THAT THE ELIMINATION OF THE GLOBAL CEILING WAS A SERIOUS DRAWBACK IN THE NEW EASTERN PROPOSAL. ROSE ALSO UNDERSTOOD KHLESTOV TO BE INDICATING READINESS TO DISCUSS GROUND FORCE RE-CATEGORIZATION AT OCT 29 INFORMAL. COMMENT: SOVIET DELOFF SHUSTOV TOLD US DELOFF OCT 24 THAT EAST WOULD GIVE REACTION ON GROUND FORCE REDEFINITION AT OCT 29 INFORMAL, BUT THAT WEST "WOULD NOT FIND EASTERN REACTION VERY HELPFUL." END COMMENT.

4. GROUP ALSO AGREED THAT EAST HAD BEEN TRYING AT OCT 22 INFORMAL TO DRAW ALLIES ONTO ITS GROUND BY REPEATEDLY EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE OF FIRST STEP METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH. ITALIAN REP NOTED THAT EAST HAD DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN METHODOLOGY AND SUBSTANCE EIGHT TIMES DURING THE INFORMAL. BELGIAN REP (ADRIAENS-SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00352 251757Z

SEN), APPARENTLY SPEAKING AT BEHEST OF HIS GOVERNMENT (SEE USNATO 5912), CONTENDED THAT LATEST FIRST STEP PROPOSAL PLACED EAST IN BETTER OPTICAL POSITION THAN THE WEST, WHICH APPEARED IMMOBILE. ADRIAENSSEN SAID AHG SHOULD TRY TO MOVE INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS FROM METHODOLOGICAL QUESTIONS, SUCH AS WESTERN PHASING AND EASTERN FIRST STEP APPROACHES, TO ISSUES OF SUBSTANCE - PARTICULARLY THE COMMON CEILING. HE THOUGHT ALLIES

SHOULD CONSIDER PROPOSING A "MIDDLE GROUND" BETWEEN PHASING AND FIRST STEP, WHICH MIGHT BE TERMED A "FIRST STAGE", AND IN WHICH THE COMMON CEILING WOULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE. US REP POINTED OUT THAT THE EAST WAS TRYING TO IMPOSE ITS WAY OF ADDRESSING THE ISSUES ON WEST AS A DEVICE TO AVOID THE COMMON CEILING GOAL, VERIFICATION, AND ASSOCIATED MEASURES. US DEPREP ADDED THAT ACCEPTING EAST'S FIRST STEP METHODOLOGY WOULD INVOLVE AGREEING TO REDUCTIONS OF LIMITED SCOPE AND SCALE, AND WOULD EXPOSE ALLIES TO EASTERN ASSESSMENT OF WHAT REDUCTIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED. US REP SAID THE WEST SHOULD AVOID ACCEPTANCE OF THIS APPROACH. ITALIAN REP AGREED THAT WEST SHOULD NOT ACCEPT EASTERN FIRST STEP METHODOLOGY, BUT MIGHT PACKAGE ITS FIRST PHASE IDEAS IN TERMS OF A "FIRST STEP," AS A MEANS OF SEEKING EASTERN ACCEPTANCE OF ALLIED SUBSTANTIVE CONCEPTS. DISCUSSION OF TACTICS FOR OCT 29 INFORMAL WILL BE CONTINUED AT OCT 24 AHG MEETING. DETAILED REPORT OF OCT 23 AHG MEETINGS IS BEING SENT BY AIRGRAM. END SUMMARY. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENT DRAFT, NEGOTIATIONS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MBFRV00352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740305-0889
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741016/aaaaankt.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAR 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <23 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: REPORT OF AD HOC GROUP MEETINGS OF OCTOBER 23, 1974
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005